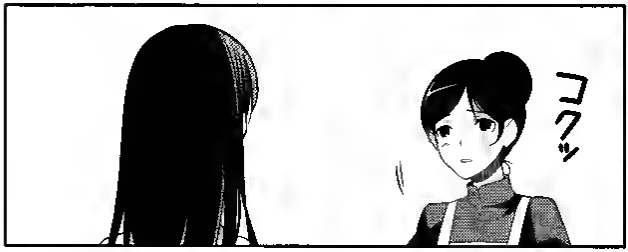
第16話

繋がる場所

PLACE OF CONNECTION

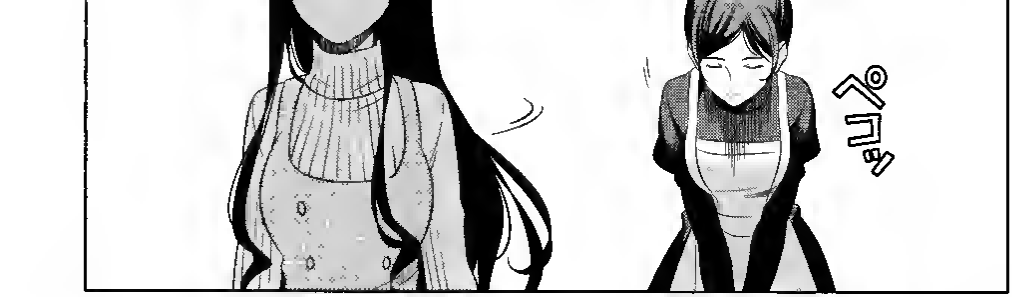
MOTOYA ISN'T HERE!?


コクッ

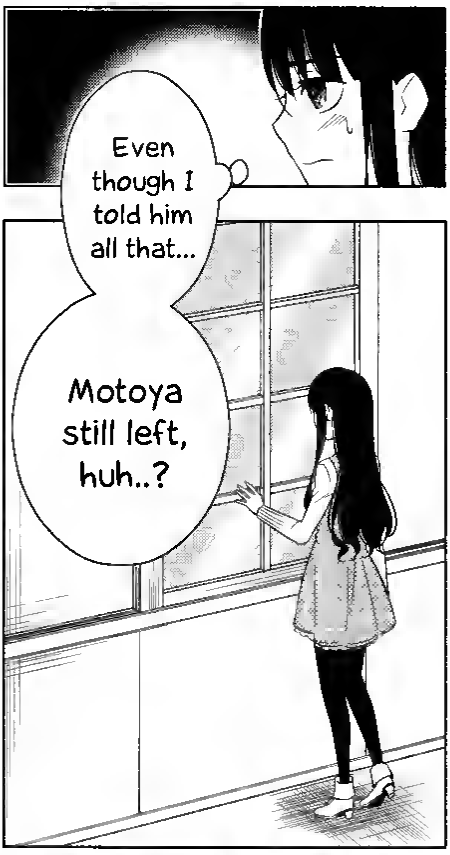
It's okay. I'll contact her myself.

Then, for Miya-sama...

.....
I understand. For now, please keep this a secret...


ピンポーン

Can it be...? Him disappearing like this...


Even though I told him all that...
Motoya still left, huh..?

No! There's no way that could be it!!

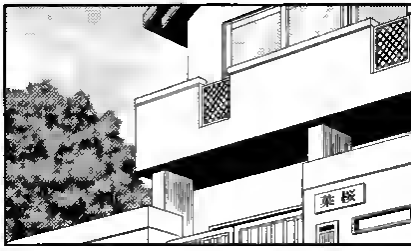
うるっ…

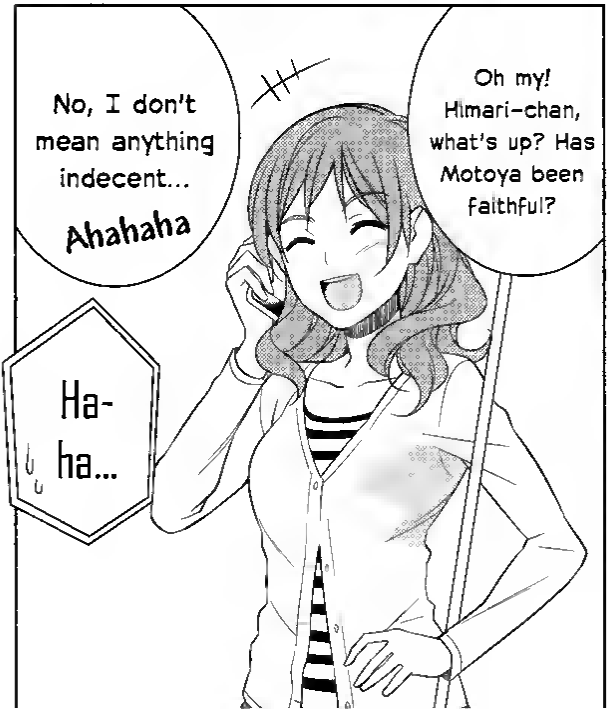
Home..?

Think about where this Motoya, who arrived at a time axis different from his own period, would head off to. Just where could he be?
Anyway, let's think in Motoya's shoes.

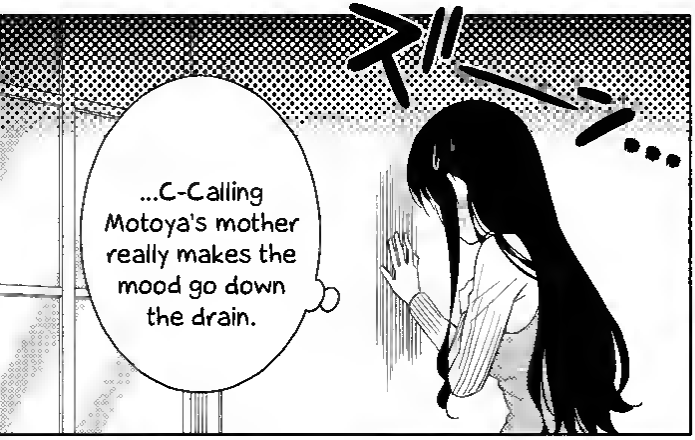
Sigh...

Yes, hello?
Ah, it's Toujou...




No, I don't mean anything indecent...
Ahahaha
Ha-ha...
Oh my! Himari-chan, what's up? Has Motoya been faithful?

Eh? Motoya? He hasn't come home.
I-Is that so...
Besides that, when will the marriage ceremony be held?
Ah, actually...
Eh? I think it's best if it happens sooner! Well hey since it's a special occasion I'm sure Himari-chan's concerned about it too right?
Well... These days you don't need to mind it too much I guess...
Erm...


...C-Calling Motoya's mother really makes the mood go down the drain.

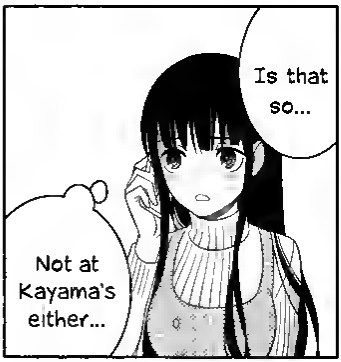
Y-Yes...
Well then, bye for now, Himari-chan!

A-Anyway, if I can't find Motoya, that means I can't marry him either..!

Also...

Marriage is...
...Still, for me...

Hi hi~


Is that so...
Not at Kayama's either...

Direct Descendant-kun?
No, he hasn't come by...

ハァ…

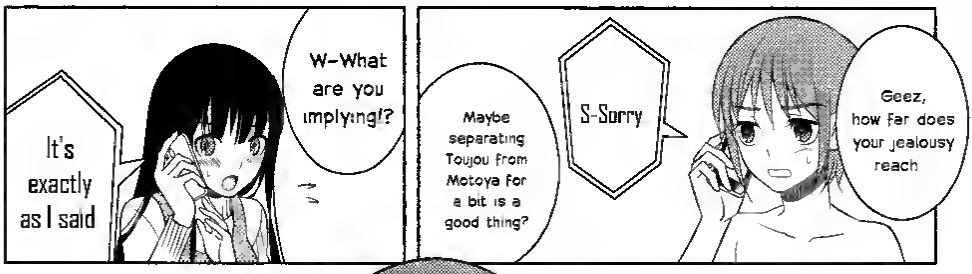
I guess Mizumura's next then...

Hey! Stop struggling!!
Ahaha haha~!!
Mizumura isn't answering..?
W-What does that mean..?
Mizumura and Motoya are..?
N-No, the one who was watching over the Irregular was Mizumura, so...
No way, could Motoya's target be the Irregular!?
I-I'm sure I'm just overthinking it! Mizumura is probably just in the bathroom!
A-Anyway, I'll try again...

Hey! Not when you're still wet!!
Honestly...
SFX: Door Open
Wah-

I wonder who it is.
Hm!? Ah...
Your celiphone's ringing!
!!
Thank goodness... You're there.
Mizumura?
What is it, Toujou?
What's up?
Yeah, I am.
"What"? We were in the bath together.
E-Erm... What were you up to?

Huh? Where did Hazakura come from? I was with Veena!
Veena's here~
Y-You're in the bath with Motoya!?
A-Ahh... So that's it.
I see...


W-What are you implying!?
It's exactly as I said
Maybe separating Toujou from Motoya for a bit is a good thing?
S-Sorry
Geez, how far does your jealousy reach

I thank you for the advice,
but since no such thing occurred, there is no need for me to adjust.
.....
Mm...

N-No way!!!!
Yeeeeah, this seems serious...
ぽん
If you'd like, I could watch over Hazakura too, you know?
SIGH...
ヤレヤレ...
...Well hey, this is precisely why you need to back off from Motoya!
ピッ
Anyway
Motoya isn't there, right? Very well. Then, that's all for now.
H-Hey, wait-

I need to separate myself from Motoya?
No, that's...
もん
もん
もん
B-But...
In Mizumura's eyes, my actions probably seem a little off from what's acceptable
ガッ
あはーはは～♡
Ahh... Goodness...
All of it's Motoya's fault!! Seriously!!

Motoya, you baka!!!
graveone: N-Not like I m into you or anything, B-Baka! o///o

Ah... S-Sorry...

!!!
Erm...
I don't really get what's wrong, but sorry.
M-Motoya..?
ドキ
ドキ
!!?
うぅ…

My bad.
I found e kinda interesting place So after I ventured eround, it ended up getting this lete
Where were you just now!? You had me worried sick!
...I thought you suddenly disappeared again...
ギュッ…
Eh? Run away? Who did?
So you didn't run away then...
A-Anyway, that's a relief!

Investigation of The Tower of Deceased Gods
『死せる神々の塔についての考察』
!!
He was an amazing person, wasn't he..?
Yes.
Oh yeah, there's something I wanna ask you.
You said the one who wrote this, ***Rear Admiral Toujou Fukami***, is Captain Toujou's grandfather, right?
B-BUT..!!

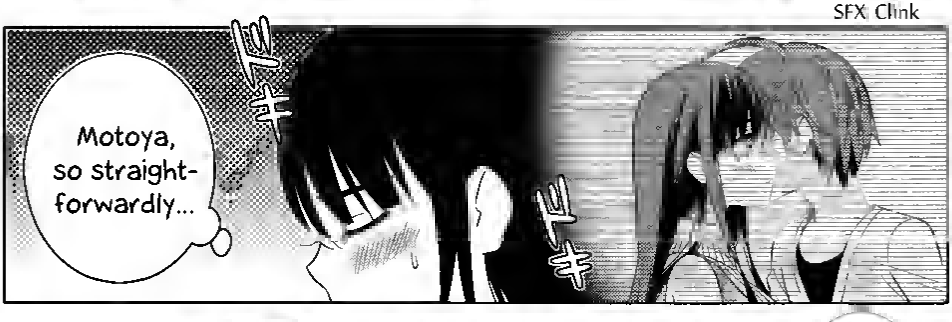
But...
Grandfather was a traitor...
Milady? Preparations for dinner have been-
.....

……
はっ…
Okay, we'll head over promptly.
Um…
Captain, there's something I would like to talk about.
Preferably, in *private*.

"IN PRIVATE" ...
Eh?
EHHHHH!?
キャーッ
はわわ
I... I under-stand...
スッ

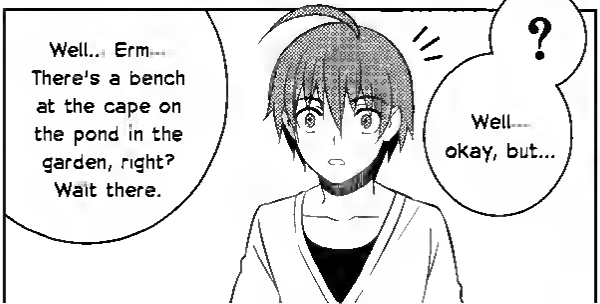
Thanks!
カチャ

SFX: Clink


Motoya, so straight-forwardly...
ドキ
ドキ

U-Um... Sorry...
もじ
もじ
I'll go shower first...

Captain Toujou,
this is about what I said just now, but...
ドクッ
O-Okay ..!!


Well... Erm... There's a bench at the cape on the pond in the garden, right? Wait there.
?
Well... okay, but...

Well, I don't want us to be heard by anyone, so I think we should do it outside...
E? Out... O-O-O- Outside !!?
うう...
Of course we... we wouldn't want to be heard by anyone, but we'll probably be seen...
Does it really matter if we're seen?
OUTSIDE...
WHILE WE'RE BEING WATCHED..!!?
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ

A-Are you okay with that, Motoya..?
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
Yeah,
I don't really mind...
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
……
あぁわわっ
キャーッ

"I don't really mind" means...
I should be interpreting it as him actually preferring to do it while being watched...
Sigh...
あはは
へっ
TURNS OUT MOTOYA'S ACTUALLY A HENTAI. WHAT A SHOCK...
That reminds me, I saw those kinds of things in his room back then as well...
ズーン
ギュッ
I wonder if I could fall in love with Motoya like them...
B-But being seen by others is just...

A-ANYWAY!
I'LL TRY PUTTING SOME EFFORT INTO IT!!!
グッ
Oookay. ...Erm...

Alright..!

Motoya...
カッツン

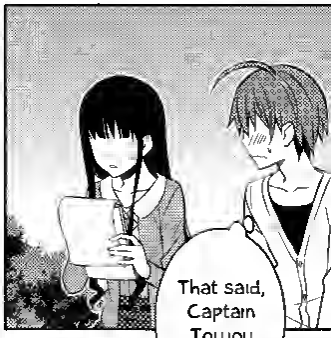
ドキドキ
スッ
ドキドキ
Eh?
For what?
I... I have resolved myself..!
Eh?
Um...
...Research?
How far in did Rear Admiral Fukami's research progress?
Well whatever
Anyway...

The room you mentioned about not too long ago.
Yes...
Eh? You didn't know about it?
The documents from the library!
They were inside this hidden room—.
ズッ
!!
I found this unexpectedly, but...
That's from earlier..!!

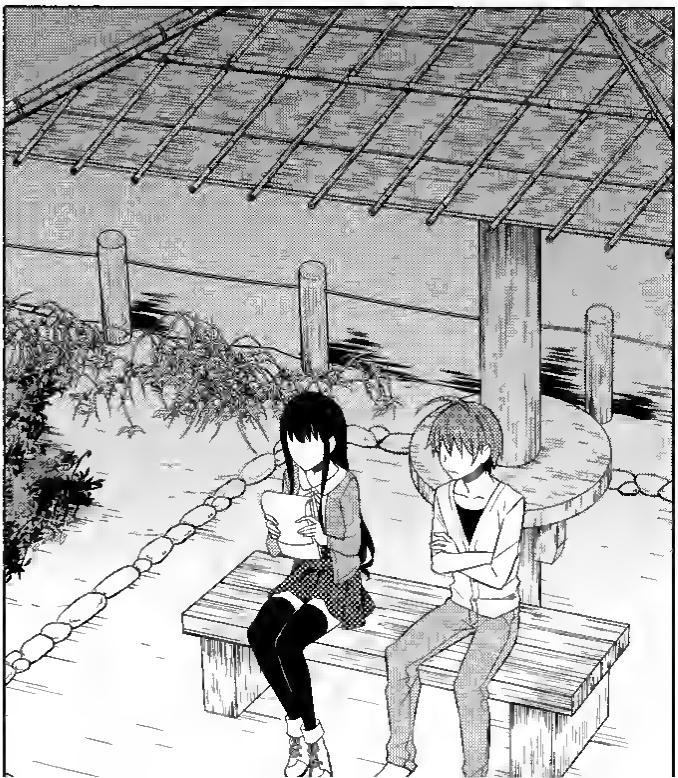
Wah-
What a nice scent...

.....

This is definitely my grandfather's research...


That said, Captain Toujou today is

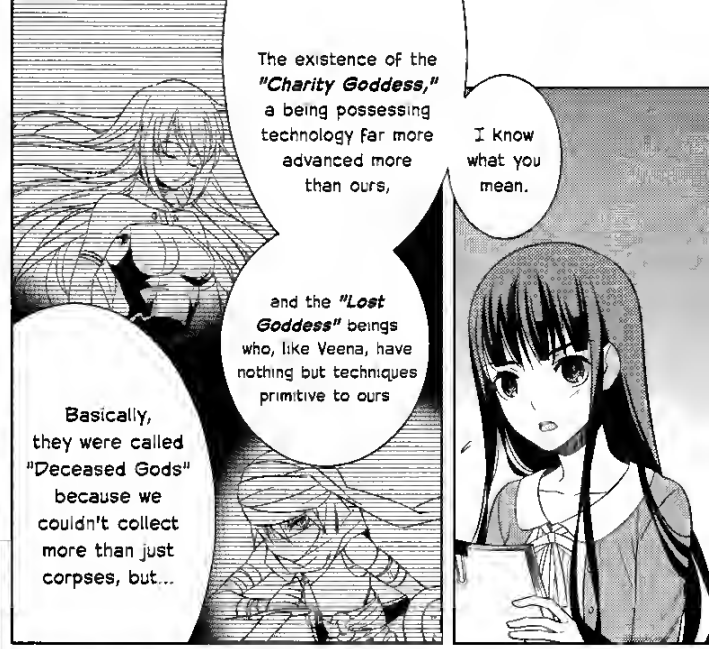
even cuter than usual..



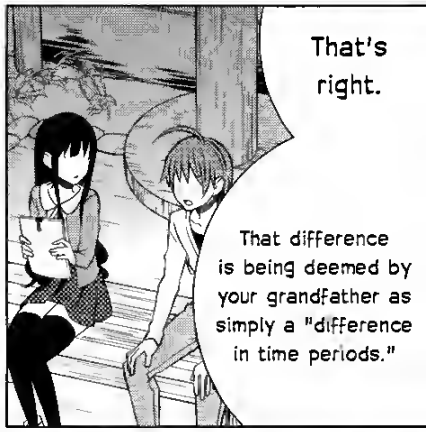
Although I heard that he broke up with her almost a year before he executed the coup d'etat
This place is Hiwatari Nomiya's separate estate. My grandfather was at one point in time, very intimate with the generation preceding her's
I see..
I suspect Nomiya was virtually unable to perform any immediate investigations afterwards thanks to that...
Unbelievable. Something like this being sealed off...
It seems like your grandfather was investigating the Irregulars.
For the 12 Irregulars preserved by the Hiwatari Device,
the discrepancy worth worrying over is our uncertainty on whether we can continue to call them all as "Irregulars."

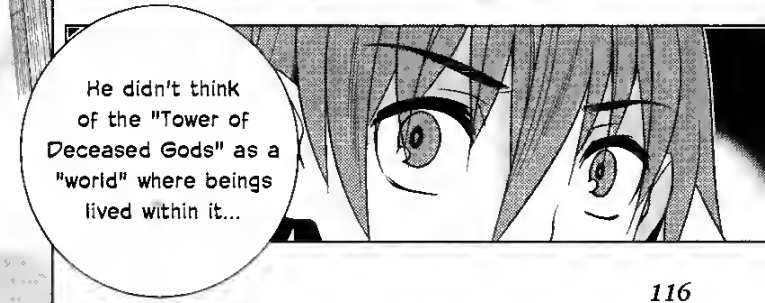
C-Certainly, if I ponder about that...
even the reason behind Motoya appearing from three years ago would be..!

He thought of it as a "pathway" leading to another period of time.


The existence of the "Charity Goddess," a being possessing technology far more advanced more than ours,
and the "Lost Goddess" beings who, like Veena, have nothing but techniques primitive to ours
Basically, they were called "Deceased Gods" because we couldn't collect more than just corpses, but...
I know what you mean.

"Difference in time periods"...?


That's right.
That difference is being deemed by your grandfather as simply a "difference in time periods."


He didn't think of the "Tower of Deceased Gods" as a "world" where beings lived within it...

Deliberately time travel?
That means...
Let alone that, I'm referring to the possibility that your grandfather may be using the tower to deliberately time travel...
You can freely travel to other periods of time!?
ﾊｯ

IMPROPER CAPTURE
CH 16
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